Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 1-4, and replace the original sheets with Figs. 1-4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 12 and 13 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action asserts that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 24, 2003, fails to comply with provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 because the reference numbers are not accessible to the Examiner. Applicants respectfully assert that the references disclosed on July 24, 2003 are accessible through a search based on Attorney Docket Numbers. Also, Applicants respectfully assert that the references are no prior art. The references are merely co-pending applications.

The Office Action objects to Figs. 1-4, 16a, 16b, 17a and 17b of the drawings asserting that they should be relabeled related art. To obviate this objection, Figs. 1-4 are amended to be designated as "related art." However, Applicants traverse the objection with respect to Figs. 16a, 16b, 17a and 17b, which show various embodiments of the application. See the specification at, for example, page 5, line 26 - page 4, line 2. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §101 asserting that claims 12 and 13 are directed to non-statutory subject matter. To obviate this rejection, claims 12 and 13 are amended to recite "a computer readable storage medium that stores a program." Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under §101 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by serial bus protocol 2 (SBP-2) in view of Firewire System Architecture: Second Edition IEEE 1394A by Anderson and by Bard (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,678 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The SBP-2 specification fails to disclose or suggest that the port controller sets the second port to a disabled state and, after the second port is set to the disabled state, the bus reset issue controller issues the bus reset to cause the first electronic instrument connected with the first port to acquire an access right, as recited in independent claim 1. Specifically, SBP-2 is developed for a peer-to-peer data transfer is not specified on the assumption that a plurality of ports P1 and P2 exist.

In the SBP specification, login processing for allowing an initiator (personal computer, for example) to acquire an access right to a target (storage device, for example) is performed, as shown in Fig. 2 of the present application (step T2; see 8.2 in the SBP-2 specification). When the login processing has succeeded, a peer-to-peer data transfer using a command block ORB (command processing) is performed between the initiator and the target (step T4). The initiator then performs logout processing to release the target (step T2; see 8.4 in the SBP-2 specification).

In the SBP specification, when the initiator has logged in to the target and acquired the access right, the initiator exclusively possesses the access right to the target until the initiator logs out (see 8.4 in the SBP specification).

However, in Fig. 8A of the present application, the first port of the electronic instrument EP (expansion device, for example) is connected with the first electronic instrument PC1 (personal computer, for example) which is the first initiator, and the second port of the electronic instrument EP is connected with the second electronic instrument PC2 (personal computer, for example) which is the second initiator, for example.

Therefore, a situation occurs in Fig. 8 in which a plurality of initiators PC1 and PC2 log in to one target EP. Specifically, this applied to the case where two PCs (PC1 and PC2) access an HDD (EP) at the same time. SBP-2 developed for a peer-to-peer data transfer is not specified on the assumption that such a situation occurs.

In Fig. 8B, when the electronic instrument PC1 as the initiator has logged in to the electronic instrument EP as the target, the electronic instrument PC1 exclusively possesses the access right to the electronic instrument EP, for example. A peer-to-peer data transfer is performed between the electronic instruments PC1 and EP until the electronic instrument PC1 logs out.

However, since whether the electronic instrument PC1 or the electronic instrument PC2 acquires the access right is determined by the operation of the arbitration circuit and the like, there may be a case where the electronic instrument PC2 acquires the access right to the electronic instrument EP depending on the connection timing, whereby the electronic instrument PC1 may not acquire the access right to the electronic instrument EP. This configuration impairs convenience to the user.

However, as recited in claim 1, the second port P2 of the electronic instrument EP is initially set to a disabled state, as shown in Fig. 12B of the present application. After the second port P2 has been set to a disabled state, the bus reset issue section issues the bus reset for prompting the electronic instrument PC1 connected with the port P1 to acquire the access right (log in), as shown in Fig. 12C. This causes the first electronic instrument PC1 to log in to the electronic instrument EP instead of the second electronic instrument PC2, whereby data is transferred between the electronic instrument PC1 as the initiator and the electronic instrument EP as the target.

In this case, since the second port P2 is set in a disabled state, the second electronic instrument PC2 cannot recognize the bus reset. Therefore, a situation can be prevented in which the second electronic instrument PC2 logs in to the electronic instrument EP depending on the connection timing and the like, whereby contention of access right acquisition (logins) does not occur.

Thus, the SBP-2 specification fails to disclose or suggest the port controller sets the second port to a disabled state and, after the second port is set to the disabled state, the bus reset issue controller issues the bus reset to cause the first electronic instrument connected with the first port to acquire an access right, as recited in independent claim 1. Anderson and Bard substantially correspond with SBP-2 and suffer from the same deficiencies.
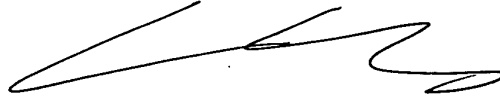
For similar reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, SPB-2 the applied reference fail to disclose the submitted matter recited in claims 6, 12-14 and 19. For example, additionally, and/or alternatively, with respect to independent claims 6, 12-14 and 19, SBP-2 fails to disclose the process sequence recited therein.

In view of the above, independent claims 1, 6, 12-14 and 19 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-11, 15-18 and 20 depend from independent claims 1, 6, 14 and 19, respectively, and therefore are patentable for the same reason as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:EXC/eks

Attachment:
    Replacement Drawing Sheets

Date: August 10, 2007

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
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